

record at Mwadui Dam, Shinyanga Region (S. Swift, 1998, in Tanzania Bird Atlas). Together with the Mwadui dam record it confirms that the range is not restricted in Tanzania to the Great Lakes Basin but extends southward, presumably through connecting drainage systems. One might speculate that the Manonga River, a perennial tributary of the Sibiti River and a major source of Lake Kitangiri, might function as a corridor for dispersal to the Kitangire area. It would be of interest to search for this species along the Manonga and Sibiti rivers.

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Two new East African birds: Black-collared Eremomela and Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-weaver

The presences of Black-collared Eremomela *Eremomela atricollis* (Sylviidae) and Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser rufoscapulatus* (Ploceidae) in Tanzania are reported here apparently for the first time. Both are endemic birds of the miombo (*Brachystegia-Julbernardia*) woodland belt of south-central Africa, having been previously recorded only from Angola, southern Congo and northern Zambia (Hall & Moreau 1970, Van Perlo 1995). The following observations indicate that Tanzanian birds likewise appear to be confined to miombo woodland. Both records have been accepted by the East African Rarities Committee.

Black-collared Eremomela

Location

A single bird was found in a mixed bird party, and a party of three birds found foraging on their own, seen only a few minutes apart from each other on 1 February 2002, in Sumbawanga District, Rukwa Region at or near 08° 19.73'S, 31° 15.94'E. The habitat was miombo woodland in hilly upland country, at an

altitude of c.1754 m. This is apparently a very scarce bird in this area since in seven days' exploration round my camp site about 4 km to the south of the above point and 150 m lower in altitude, I saw no further birds. Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* was common throughout the area at both high and low elevations. A single Yellow-bellied Eremomela *E. icteropygialis* was also noted close to the spot where the *E. atricollis* were seen. Thus as many as three eremomela species may be present together in this one area at the same time.

Description

Upperparts greyish to grey-green, the impression of green perhaps owing to reflected light from foliage; forehead distinctly paler. A wide black bar through the eye; above this a yellow bar of equal width and length. Underparts, divided neatly into an upper, yellow throat to chin portion and a lower, white breast to belly separated by a black breast band that was widest in the centre and tapered towards the sides where it joined up with the posterior ends of the black eye bars; the width of the breast band varied somewhat as the bird shuffled its feathers. Legs, blackish.

Voice

Nothing definite was heard. A harsh grating noise, monotonously repeated, as well as a fainter, more musical note which may have been a contact call, were heard coming from the canopy of a tree in which a party of three birds were foraging.

Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver

Location

The records were made in a stretch of woodland along the Mpanda-Inyonga road, where it crosses the Uruwira plateau, between kms 52 and 68, Mpanda District, Rukwa Region. The first sightings were on 15 July 2001 and the latest on 12 February 2002. The corresponding points were 06° 26.76'S, 31° 27.97'E and 06° 27.08'S, 31° 36.71'E. The habitat was high miombo woodland in level country, at an altitude of c.1300 m. Curiously, one of the miombo dominants here was *Brachystegia microphylla*, a tree more usually associated with mountain tops and rocky ridges. The particular combination of bird, tree and geography is thus somewhat unusual. This bird was found to be quite common within this restricted range.

Description

Top of head black. A wide black stripe through and just above the eye; a white stripe between the black areas and narrower than the lower stripe; a black line from the lower corner of the bill to the side of the neck. Upperparts dark brown, mantle chestnut. Wing with two white bars, the upper one broader. Underparts, pale. Tail with a central terminal notch. Bill, pale horn colour.

Voice

The call was a high-pitched trill, "trrrrrt", repeated often and usually the first sign of the species' presence. The song, heard once, was a rich medley of silvery trills, suggestive of a sunbird.

Behaviour

Seen in small groups of three to four (up to six) birds, often with other species in mixed bird parties. Fed on the ground, taking to trees when disturbed. Often seen sitting inactive in high branches. A disused nest was at a height of about 4 m on a branch of a small understory tree. In general appearance and construction it was like that of White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*.

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Cape Shoveler *Anas smithii* the first record for Tanzania

On 9 October 1997 we were counting waterbirds on one of our local wetlands 2 km south of Boma Ng'ombe, west Kilimanjaro, when we found a Cape Shoveler *Anas smithii*. We had clear but distant views through a 30x telescope and returned the following day to photograph the bird. The record has been accepted by the East African Rarities Committee as the first for Tanzania.

The wetlands are ephemeral, fed by the south-western foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. On the day there were nearly 500 waterbirds of 31 species present amongst much emergent and floating vegetation. It is unusual for these pools to hold water as late as October but the previous long rains had been heavier and later than normal. The shoveler was not associating with any other waterbirds and none of the other species present were unusual for the locality.

There are no collections of exotic waterbirds in Tanzania and none can be traced in Kenya so the likelihood that this bird had escaped from captivity seems remote. As a breeding species in southern Africa the Cape Shoveler is more or less confined to fresh water habitats. Peak laying in Zimbabwe, the nearest breeding population to Tanzania, is July–September (Hockey *et al.* 2005). The species is described as nomadic and subject to restlessness (Brown *et al.* 1982). It is a rare visitor to Zambia between May and November with